

Doll Clothes of Yore

Original, Historical Designs for 18" Dolls

American Civil War Period - Circa 1840-1870



'Queen Emmalani' Dress

History

Who is Queen Emmalani?

Emma Na'ea was the daughter of High Chief George Na'ea, and was called 'Emmalani' or 'Royal Emma'. She was descended from the family of King Kamehameha I, however her Caucasian blood (on her mother's side), disqualified her from inheriting the Hawaiian throne. In her 20's she became engaged to Alexander Liholiho, the current king of Hawaii. They married and had a son two years later.

Emmalani's reign was tragically cut short by the death of Alexander and their son. She lost the election to remain Queen of Hawaii. She remained a widow and retained the title of Dowager Queen for the rest of her life. Despite their differences, Emmalani and Queen Victoria of England became close friends. Emmalani was described as being kind and dignified. She was much loved by her people, and the 'Emalani' festival is still celebrated every October in Koke'e State Park.

Fashion

This dress was inspired by a costume seen in the period film 'Anna and the King'. It is an accurate representation of what would have been worn by well-to-do women to a ball or another grand occasion.

What is a 'Bertha'?

A 'Bertha' in the 1850's was a type of collar that stretched around a lady's shoulders. It was acceptable for a lady's shoulders to be exposed in evening dresses, and this collar was a way of accentuating that style. The style of this collar originated in the 1830's, and was usually formed of pleated fabric or gathered lace.